

## Excerpts From Mr. Sudduth's Saturday Night Radio Address On Negro Progress

CINCINNATI, Ohio—(SNS)—Horace Sudduth, president of the National Life Insurance Company, admitted the assets of the company are more than a quarter million dollars. This largest is the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, of Chicago, Ill., with admitted assets of almost three million dollars.

We cannot turn our thoughts toward Negro enterprises in this country without becoming impressed with his economic progress thus far and the positive signs of continuation of that progress.

In recent years our Federal government has employed what is called a Special Advisor to the Secretary of Commerce on Negro affairs. From his reports we learn that the Negro is making rapid strides in the establishment of neighborhood retail stores of all kinds in every part of the country and in the establishment of Department stores in cities where there is a large Negro population.

His report also shows that the Negro has not turned to the production of civilian goods in any great numbers, but has shown amazing progress in the establishment and in the successful operation of insurance companies, banks, building and loan associations, newspapers, real

half million dollars. Second largest is the Atlanta Life Insurance Company, of Atlanta, Ga. with admitted assets of more than a quarter million dollars. This largest is the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Company, of Chicago, Ill., with admitted assets of almost three million dollars.

The annual report of insurance companies owned and operated by Negroes was made public by the U. S. Department of Commerce on March 9 of this year and shows 202 companies operating in 24 states and the District of Columbia. Their aggregate admitted assets total thirty-six and one-half million dollars, and the total amount of insurance force on the lives of policy-holders is more than 471 million dollars.

On March 25 this year the Annual report of Banking Institutions Owned and Operated by Negroes showed eleven banks with total liabilities and capital accounts amounting to over eleven million dollars. We also found that there are 350 or more newspapers edited and published by Negroes. Of these, more than a dozen have a large national and international circulation.

The Plato of Louisville, Ky., Archie Alexander of Des Moines, Iowa and Mr. Messiah of Philadelphia, Pa. as civil engineers and general building contractors provides us with one of the most inspiring stories that can be told about successful Negro business enterprise.

In the past thirty years, Samuel Plato was the general contractor and built for our Federal government 35 postoffices—ten in New York State and 24 in the states of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, West Virginia and Ohio and also one at Fort Thomas, Ky. When our government stopped building post offices for the duration, Mr. Plato turned to other governmental projects. He built the Sparrow Point Housing Project in Baltimore, Md. at a cost of more than one and one-half million dollars and the girls' dormitory for Federal employees at Washington, D. C. at a cost of one and a quarter million dollars. Right here in Cincinnati, he built the Antioch Baptist Church and the Supreme Liberty Life Insurance Building, both located on West Ninth St.

**HORACE SUDDUTH**  
estate companies and as building contractors.

The greatest Negro business enterprises are insurance companies. The largest of these is the North Carolina Mutual Life Insurance Co., of Durham, N. C., with admitted assets of more than seven and one-

cost of more than a million dollars. The success of these two men, Samuel Plato and Archie Alexander, proves conclusively that there are no barriers to the successful building of Negro business enterprises except those which are imposed upon them by their own lack of ability and capacity.

To encourage Negro business development and to organize their efforts for increased efficiency, the National Negro Business League was founded in 1900 by Booker T. Washington and, on the 25-26-27th of this month in Baltimore, Md., the League will hold its 43rd annual convention, at which meeting the program will have as its subject "Negro Business Now and in the Post War Period" From the League's program it can be readily seen that The National Negro Business League is alert to those significant implications which today's global war has upon the future of minority groups. We believe that the place which the Negro Race is to occupy in tomorrow's economic world is a place which we must develop and build for ourselves and that we must, thru our own individual and combined abilities and capacities, become a definite part in the nation's commercial and financial pattern.

## Contributions Of Negro To Culture Told

Daily World  
Atlanta, Ga.  
Documents In  
Congress Library

WASHINGTON, D. C. — (SNS)—The many outstanding contributions of the American Negro to American culture are summed up and documented in a new publication entitled 75 Years of Freedom: Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States, just published by the Library of Congress.

The book, which has been over two years in preparation, contains an extensive selective bibliography, based upon the series of exhibits and concerts held in the Library of Congress commencing December 18, 1940, the 75th anniversary of the proclamation of the Amend-

ment which ended slavery. Like the original music festival and the exhibitions of Negro art, books and manuscripts which provide its substance, 75 Years of Freedom is the product of the combined efforts of many prominent authorities, Negro and white.

The section devoted to Negro music contains critical articles on spirituals, blues, ballads, social songs, reels and work songs, by such scholars and folklorists as Dr. Allan Locke and Sterling A. Brown, Negro poets and professors at Howard university and Alan Lomax, formerly in charge of the Archive of American Folk Song in the Library. The section on the exhibit of graphic art contains an introduction by Alonzo J. Aden, Curator of the Howard University Gallery of Art, and is illustrated in color.

The final section dealing with the exhibit of books, manuscripts, broadsides, music, portraits, and other illustrative materials comprises more than half the volume and is divided into seventeen parts dealing with the role of the American Negro in drama, education, history, music, literature, religion, science and invention, sports and athletics, the social sciences, etc.

The largest portion is devoted to historical materials dealing with the anti-slavery movement. Beginning with John Quincy Adams' argument before the Supreme Court vindicating the right to freedom of 53 Negroes who had been taken captive at sea in the schooner, Amistad, the Library's volume lists, and gives a full bibliographical description of, important legal and social documents pertaining to the Negro's struggle for freedom.

Here are such items as the first annual report of the American Anti-Slavery Society, published in New York in 1834; the proceedings of the Anti-Slavery Convention of American Women held in New York in 1837; Anthony Benezet's warning of the "Calamitous State of the Enslaved Negroes", published in Philadelphia in 1776, and the constitution of the Maryland Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, published in Baltimore in 1789.

## Marine Officers Thanks State; Journal and Guide Sees Our Progress

Norfolk, Virginia  
PETERSBURG, Va.—President

Luther H. Foster, president of Virginia State College, has received a letter of thanks from a Marine Corps lieutenant stationed in the Southwest Pacific for smokes sent by students at the college to his unit.

The officer, a native of South Carolina and a man who admits pride in the fact he is a Southerner, noted, in the letter, the advancement by Negroes in the South and so hope in the educational and civic progress of Negroes as an integral part of making possible a peace worth winning. The letter follows:

December 6, 1943  
The President  
Virginia State College For Negroes  
Petersburg, Va., U. S. A.

Dear Sir:  
For the past several months many of the packages of cigarettes that have been given to both the officers and men of my squadron have borne the stamp of the Virginia State College for Negroes.

I don't know whether anyone else has written of their appreciation for these smokes, but if they haven't it is because they just don't have the time. I know that when I thank the students of Virginia State it is not only for myself but thousands of other fellows like me.

I am a native of South Carolina, a true Southerner and one that is vastly proud of the Negroes of our Southland. I am proud of the progress you have shown in education and civic life, and since being in the service I have seen our Negro youth fight and die beside their white countrymen. All fighting for the same thing.

Many of the best, cleanest, and neatest men in our Armed Forces are Negroes. A very good friend of mine is the officer-in-charge of a Negro outfit and he would not trade his post for any other in the service. I don't blame him either for he has the most decent outfit I have yet to see.

The boys and girls that are in college today, both white and Negro will be the leaders of tomorrow. You keep up the good work at home, we'll do our part out here, and we'll have a peace worth winning when we finish.

Very truly yours,

## Negro Literacy Up, Census Shows

Defender—Chicago, Ill.

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Marked increases in literacy and school attendance, entrance into professions and a general trend away from farm laborer status to ownership of their own farms or to the cities were indicated in a statistical report issued Wednesday on changes in Negro population since 1870 by the bureau of the census.

According to the report the rate of population increase was on the

decline the 10 years from 1930-40, rate, although there was a numerical growth during those years of 975,000 or 8 per cent.

The birth rate has declined considerably in 70 years, comparable to the decline in the white birth rate, and there has been an even greater decline in the Negro death



# Is Race Profiting By Past Achievements? Leader Asks

Journal & Guide

By C. C. SPAULDING

Many of you have doubtless read the article about three oak trees on the campus of the University of North Carolina that lived and flourished for hundreds of years. With the passing of time, however, they withered and died and their removal became imperative. It appears the ancient trees on the campus were held in high esteem, hence, as the



MR. SPAULDING University developed, drives and walks were routed around them in order that they might be preserved. It also appears that, as the old trees are removed, young saplings are planted where these ancient trees stoop, and therein lies an object lesson.

The question that arises in my mind is whether or not we as a race are consolidating and perpetuating the accomplishments that have been achieved in preceding generations through the development and integration of the youth of today.

Are these young people developing the sterling, Christian character; the mental, moral and physical fitness that enable their foreparents to persevere, achieve, and prosper?

## TRUSTED GUARDIANS

In days gone by, though education as we know it today was nonexistent for our group, as butlers, laborers, and servants, these individuals proved trusted guardians of that which was held most dear. Uneducated though they were, they were nevertheless trustworthy.

Is the present generation acquiring the finer traits of manhood and womanhood so pronounced in the lives of those of former generations, who, through force of circumstances, learned through observation and contact, rather than in schools and universities?

As a race, the proper training and development of the youth of our group is a matter of grave concern. While one may achieve a high degree of scholastic training, it is possible that the courage

Norfolk, Va.

initiative, and moral stamina essential to leadership may be lacking.

## PERTINENT QUESTIONS

Are we profiting through contact with other groups whose opportunity, experience, and development have been a matter of centuries rather than years? Are we progressing along the line of hearts of men and women who along with others, and encouraging others to get along with us? Have we the right attitude toward snobbishness and injustices, whether practiced among ourselves or thrust upon us by other groups?

Business men are asking these questions. Although we are thriving during this period of prosperity, what will be the outlook during the lean years that are destined to follow? What are we doing to help Negro owned businesses consolidate their gains and continue to operate at a profit?

Unless these businesses prosper and continue to earn, they cannot absorb the youth of the race now in training, or pay for the service they are being trained to render. SHOULD MAKE SURVEY

In summing up the problems that confront us, both the public and our men in business need to survey underlying causes and effects most seriously. Are we making the best of our opportunities? Are we as busy men proving ourselves diligent and trustworthy? Are we as prompt and courteous as we should be? Are we honest and dependable?

Are we traditionally rowdy, boisterous, and generally objectionable? Are we too prone to indulge in insulting expressions, both among ourselves and with regard to other groups?

Frankly, I should like to know the answers to these questions. I should like to know what we as a race can do to improve our position among other groups. Are we making a conscientious effort to rid ourselves of our shortcomings and endeavoring to eliminate the earmarks that have so long influenced our standard of citizenship? South African conferences ever Have we developed the efficiency and trustworthiness that will insure our holding the jobs that the present emergency has made available? Are we religiously considering our duties and responsibilities as parents? Are we by our actions proving that segregation laws are unwarranted and useless?

## WE MUST ANSWER

These are questions we ourselves must answer, and once we arrive at the right answer, prove by merit and deserve unrestricted citizenship.

The conflict that is now raging is the ninth world war. In every respect its effects are more far reaching, brutal, and devastating than any the world has heretofore experienced.

If America and the world are to have peace, if the Negro is to receive just consideration, the transformation must begin in the hearts of men and women who are capable and willing to abide by the golden rule, rise above petty prejudices and race aversion, and do unto others even as they themselves would be done by.

## GRIM REMINDERS

As we approach the holiday season, the thought of the world at war and the empty places that will be at many Christmas tables this year, are grim reminders that universal peace is still a hope rather than a reality.

The confidence with which we from year to year look forward to Christmas, with its traditional thoughtfulness of others, gives evidence, however, that the spark of human kindness is still alive in the human breast.

It is, therefore, with a spirit of soberness, tempered with confidence in our belief that a new and better world will eventually emerge from the ashes of the old, that we continue the age-old custom of wishing "Merry Christmas."

With this thought in mind, we look forward to the New Year with happy anticipations of better things to come.

## South Africans Adopt Charter Of Rights

Journal & Guide

Norfolk, Va.

NEW YORK—(ANP)—"A Charter of Rights for the Native People of South Africa" was adopted last month at Johannesburg by the most representative South African conferences ever to consider this problem. The Council on African Affairs announced.

The conference presided over by the Rev. Michael Scott and attended by over 200 leaders of religious, industrial and political organizations communicated the

Charter to Gen. Smuts, premier of South Africa, and elected a council to conduct a nation-wide campaign in support of the program.

It also issued an appeal to labor and other progressive organizations in Britain and the United States to declare their backing for the charter to Gen. Smuts during his visits to these countries, and to "help do away with the poverty and degradation in which Africans are forced to live."

The unanimously adopted weight-point charter included the following demands: proportional representation within the legislatures for all tax-paying peoples and races, abolition of all racial discrimination in industrial legislation, government recognition of non-European trade unions and a minimum wage of 2 pounds (little over \$8) per week for all unskilled workers (which means practically all Africans.)

Also demanded were the extension of the unemployed benefit act to include all workers irrespective of race or color and the provision of adequate housing, medical and health services for Africans.

## Census Report Shows Advance Made By Race

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Virginia.

## Farm And Home Ownership Key To Progress

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(ANP)—Marked increases in literacy and school entrance into the 1930s and a general trend away from farm laborer status to ownership of their own farms or to the cities were indicated in a statistical report issued recently by the bureau of census on changes in Negro population since 1870.

According to the report the rate of population increase was on the decline the 10 years from 1930-40, although there was a numerical growth during those years of 975,000, or eight per cent.

The birth rate has declined considerably in 70 years, comparable to the decline in the

white birth rate, and there has been an even greater decline in the Negro death rate.

Illiteracy decreased between 1870-1930, the last date available, from 81 per cent to 12 per cent.

## 80,000 COLLEGE GRADS

The report showed that more than 80,000 Negro college graduates over 25 years of age were reported in 1940.

Migration to cities resulted in a decrease of Negroes in agriculture from 54 per cent in 1910 to 36 per cent in 1930.

More than one-fourth of the farms operated by Negroes were owned by operators in 1940.

Negro-owned homes increased from 18 per cent of occupied houses in 1890 to 22 per cent in 1940.

The report further indicated that there has been better than a three fold increase since 1870 in the number of Negroes engaged in teaching, medicine, dentistry, nursing, law, social welfare, and the ministry, those in the professions totaling 110,000 in 1940.



# PV's Man and Woman of Year Selected on Honor Award Poll

Twelve outstanding Negroes, two of which were selected by PV as Man and Woman of the Year, and six prominent whites were named to the Honor Roll of Race Relations of 1942, Sunday, Feb. 7, according to Dr. Lawrence R. Reddick of the New York Public Library.

The poll is conducted annually by the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature of the NY Public Library to determine the 12 Negro individuals, organizations or institutions and the 6 white individuals, organizations or institutions who have done the most for improvement of race relations "in terms of real democracy." It is a feature of Negro History week, which began Feb. 7.

Captain Hugh Mulzac, of the *Booker T. Washington*, was PV's Man of The Year and Margaret Walker, the writer, was PV's Woman of Year.

No attempt is made to rank the names. The citizens are as follows: Captain Hugh Mulzac, of the ship *Booker T. Washington* for becoming the first Negro captain of a United States merchant ship.

Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, whose contributions to American music for the past twenty years have lifted "Jazz" to new heights of excellence and dignity.

Dr. George Washington Carver, whose recent death brought to a close a career which has focused wide attention upon the contributions of the Negro to science.

Willard S. Townsend, President of the United Transport Workers of America (Red Caps), for becoming the first Negro member of the Executive Committee of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

Dr. J. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., Phi Beta Kappa, for winning his Ph. D. in Mathematics from the University of Chicago at the age of nineteen.

Paul Robeson, for symbolizing and promoting the folk art of many of the lands and peoples and for his performance last summer in the leading role of Shakespeare's immortal play *Othello*.

Dr. Alain Locke, of Howard University, for winning the

Yale University Younger Poets competition with her book *For My People*.

Judge William H. Hastie, former it takes courage to be liberal.

The National Maritime Union, for supporting Captain Mulzac in his fight for recognition and for its uncompromising stand against racial discrimination in the employment of its members.

The Survey Graphic, for its special issue of last November, entitled: "Color: unfinished business of democracy."

Birmingham Post Birmingham, Alabama

The American Negro

In No Country Has Minority Group Done So Well

By William Philip Simms

President Roosevelt, describing his visit to West Africa at a recent press conference, remarked that Europeans have been dominate there since before Columbus but that today the Negro natives are almost as illiterate, and live as primitively, as centuries ago. Which is perfectly true.

And as I listened, I thought what a splendid topic for a fireside chat that would make. For here in the United States are some—both white people and Negroes—who are trying to stir up trouble between the races. Some are doing it deliberately, knowing quite well what they are doing. Others, sincere and well-meaning, don't know what they are doing. They are merely misled.

Never in all history, in any country, has any people shown such tremendous advancement in so short a time as the Negroes of America. Economically, politically and socially their progress has been simply amazing. The introduction to "Negroes and the War," an Office of War Information publication, cites some figures.

Between 1880 and 1930, it observes, the number of Negro clergymen rose from 12,159 to 25,034; of teachers from 15,008 to 54,439; of doctors from 208 to 3,805; of dentists from 120 to 1,773; of lawyers and judges from 431 to 1,247. There are 680,000 Negro farm operators, 95 per cent of them in the South. Exactly the same percentage of farm security loans went to Negroes as to their white neighbors.

Today Negroes own approximately \$200,000,000 worth of church property and some 300 newspapers and periodicals. About 100 colleges and universities are exclusively theirs.

In 1916, less than 1,700 students were in Negro colleges. By 1941 there were 40,000.

In "Mein Kampf," as the writer points out, Hitler said it was a "crime" for "bourgeois" Americans to educate Negroes. For Negroes, said the Fuehrer, are "half-apes" who could only learn things "like a poodle," hence could never really have a "scientific education." To all this the Negro in America has given the lie.

That there is still plenty of room for improvement no informed person will deny. But it is equally undeniable that in no country on earth has a racial minority made such progress as have the 13,000,000 Negroes in the United States. Nor has this been any accident. It didn't just happen. It was the result of two things: First, the native intelligence of the Negro himself, and, second, the help of the white majority.

Racial prejudice and discrimination there are, of course. But that these have been gradually on the wane in the United States is shown by the figures above. It can be eliminated or minimized only by a long process of education. Force will not destroy it.

The secret of the Negro's unparalleled progress in America is patient and systematic cooperation between him and the white man. Those who preach anything else are the enemy of both.

## NMU Honored for Fight Against Discrimination

As a feature of Negro History Week, officially opened yesterday, Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick, curator of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Literature, announced yesterday the names of 12 Negro individuals, organizations or institutions "who most distinguished themselves" and the six white individuals, organizations or institutions "who did most for the improvement of race relations in terms of real democracy" during 1942.

Dr. Reddick said in his announcement that the efforts of those named "are indeed worthy contributions to national unity in that they strengthen morale and quicken the faith of the whole American people in the democratic ideal." He added that these efforts "demonstrate to our alienated world over the capacity of democracy constantly to improve itself and to secure the rights of all the people."

The Honor Roll of Race Relations is compiled annually from a nation-wide poll conducted by the Schomburg Collection.

White persons, organizations or institutions named in the honor roll were the late Dr. Franz Boas, Wendell L. Willkie, Warner Brothers, Lillian Smith, editor of "The South Today," the National Maritime Union and the "Survey Graphic."

The NMU was lauded for uncompromisingly struggling against discrimination in employment and for supporting Captain Hugh Mulzac's fight for recognition.

Dr. Boas was cited for scientific studies toward shattering "the myth of race," and Mr. Willkie for speaking out "for the rights of

Negroes and Negro institutions honored were: Captain Hugh Mulzac, skipper of the new 10,500-ton Liberty freighter, the *Booker T. Washington*; Edward Kennedy "Duke" Ellington, for lifting jazz "to new heights of excellence and dignity"; the late Dr. George Washington Carver, for his contributions to science; Willard S. Townsend, president of the United Transport Workers of America (Red Caps); first Negro member of the executive Committee, Congress of Industrial Organizations.

### ROBESON, LUCE, TOBIAS

Included also were Dr. Ernest Wilkins, Jr., 19-year-old recipient of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in mathematics at the University of Chicago; Paul Robeson, especially for his performance of "Othello"; Dr. Alain Locke, "for his books and for editing the special issue of 'Survey Graphic';" Dr. Arthur Melvin Townsend, business man; the "Pittsburgh Courier," for leading the Negro press in the campaign against fascism at home and abroad; Dr. Channing Tobias, for his services in the War Bond and the Army and Navy recreational

programs and as a member of the National Advisory Committee on Selective Service; Margaret Walker, his heroic efforts to achieve full integration of the Negro in the United States Army.



# The Negro Carves Niche For Himself

BY ROBERT IVEY C. HOEY,  
(Shelby)

THIS being "Negro history week", millions of our American Negroes are searching into their past in hopes of finding historical backgrounds. But since the Civil war, Negro Racial and national groups have been and is, considered always, such back-very remarkable in their de-ground as a necessity to self-velopments. Sixty-five years respect and progress; having ago Negroes owned only about spent infinite care in their pre-two thousand business en-erservations. Today, our Negroesprizes, none being of great are sensing this need for them-magnitude. Today they own selves and are seeking to supply about forty thousand business it. This surely is not to their enterprises, the majority of discredited, but rather to the con-which are of great magnitude. trary.

Naturally enough, but not less gate wealth estimated at three unfortunate, the larger part of billion dollars. our histories picture the Negro Handicapped by race pre-in terms of slavery, national justice, the Negro mass has been contention, insurrection, civil slow to develop culturally and war, and tragic reconstruction—economically, but where op-a liability always, if not a men-portunities have been available, ace. Unfortunately this has not marked progress has resulted. been good for either race; in- In the United States, the race evitably it has only kindled the has produced such notable fig-flame of destruction of our-ures as: Booker T. Washington, American Negro's respect on- once a slave, who established one hand, and to restrain self-Tuskegee Institute for Negroes, respect on the other. 1880; Toussaint L'Ouverture,

Having realized these unfor- liberator of Haiti; several poets; Dunbar, Wheatly, Braithwaite, fortunate effects of their condi- Johnson, Hughes, and Cullen. tions, many considerate Negro leaders a few years ago initiated McKay, a novelist; Dubois, a the serious study of "Negro writer and sociologist.

For instance, we learn that The Negro has also a place in Negro history week. Results of the field of inventions. Norbert these rather interesting studies Rillieux, a Louisiana Negro who have been very surprising. invented the vacuum pan which revolutionized sugar refining; the Negro had a place in the J. E. Matzeliger devised the pioneering and discoveries of shoe-lasting machine; Benjamin America; with Balboa when he Banneker, mathematician and reached the Pacific; with Cortez astronomer, made the first clock in Mexico; and with the ex-produced in America. Elijah plorers who discovered Gaute-McCoy, of Detroit, has taken mala, Chile, Peru, and Vene-out more than fifty patents; zuela. Estevanico, a Negro, led The universally used lubricat-the party that first explored ing cup being one of his inven-New Mexico and Arizona. The tions. Last but not least is only civilized American Negro George Washington Carver, who who have ever set foot on the has made numerous discoveries North Pole is Matt Henson, hav- with the lowly peanut, and oth- ing had the trusted companion-er plants of nature.

Slaves, as a means of labor, Negro Music — spirituals, Peary on all of his eight ex- blues, swing. Compositions of peditions to the Pole. Samuel Coleridge-Taylor; and vocal art of Roland Hayes, Mar-supply began during the land-ian Anderson, Dorothy Maynor, ing at Jamestown in 1619. There Paul Robeson, Maxine Sullivan and then, twenty Negroes were and others are known all over sold as slaves, or probably as the United States. On the mel- "covenant servants." These low side are such well-known trades increased immensely, and rhythm makers as: Louis Arm- soon these servants were doing strong, Cab Calloway, Count the largest part of our coun-Basie, The "Ink Spots," Erskine try's agricultural work, especi- Hawkins, Andy Kirk, and Duke ally in the South. Most of the Ellington! In the field of art outh's skilled mechanical there are such noted figures as work, during the later slave Jacob Lawrence. Hale Wood-

ruff, Charles Alston, and E. Simms; with Richmond Barthe and Augusta Savage being very able sculptors. There too, are many other important person-ages among Negro artists, in-cluding the artists of the thea-ter and motion pictures. Their unique talents are steadily in-creasing, with recognitions.

Great progress has been made by the Negro in the fields of education. In 1865, 90 per cent were illiterate, today there are only about ten per cent illiter-ate. Approximately 40,000 mem-bers of the race have graduated from college, many leaving with honors. There is nothing re-cent in the origin of the Negroes' skill. Twelve years past, census figures listed 32,000 carpenters; 27,000 mechanics, 25,000 iron and steel workers, 18,000 painters, 12,000 brick-masons, 4,000 chemical work-ers, 351 technical engineers, and 63 architects. Now, with de-fense training classes and the demands for war productions increasing, these numbers of skilled workers are increasing immensely. This new world of today gives the Negro a chance to show and often his apprecia-tions for the higher aspects of life.

In the devotion to his flag and country, the Negro hasn't been found deficient. The first Amer-ican to fall in the Boston Massa-cre on March 5, 1770 was Cris-pus Attucks, a Negro. Peter Salem and Salem Poor won dis-tinction at the battle of Bunker Hill. There were some three thousand Negro soldiers fight-ing in the American revolu-tionary war. There were Negro soldiers who gallantly fought with Commodore Perry in 1812, at the battle of Lake Erie; and with General Jackson at New Orleans. Many Negro soldiers distinguished themselves in the Spanish-American War. Many distinguished themselves at El Caney, San Juan Hill, and Guasimas, also. Four hundred thousand Negro troops went over in World War 1; and two Negroes, Henry Johnson and Needham Roberts, were cited for bravery, having received the "Croix de Guerre." Award-ed also for valor were four en-tire Negro regiments—awarded with the "Croix de Guerre."

Being proud of his achieve-ments in the past few years the Negro is now fighting shoulder to shoulder with his fellow Americans in this world con-flict—since their future like the future of all lovers of freedom, depends upon the triumph of democracy! Today, our Negro troops are stationed all over the world; in the orient, in England, in North Africa, and in all far places where American uni-formed men are carrying the battle on with the enemy. They

are in every branch of the army, air corps, infantry, artillery, calvary, engineers, armoured forces, quartermasters, and sig-nal corps. Then too, they are now accepted as seamen in the naval reserve, and given duties which include service on mine sweepers, tankers, and in shore establishments. Our Negro troops of today are really mak-ing a record for themselves, which will not only equal the distinguished records made by those of the previous World war, but will probably have them surpassed by a great mar-gin. Our only hope for victory in this war is to agree with Sgt. Joe Louis who says: "We'll win 'cause we're on God's side!"

They have come a long way, but these facts are only frag-mentary hints of the hardships and struggles for their recogni-tion. No other race, in an equal length of time has accomplished as much as has the Negro. This record is creditable to both races; being due alike to 'op-portunities' and the 'helping hand' toward progress, provid-ed by God, through the white man — and by the Negroes' eagerness and ability to profit by them. I think, therefore, it should be a source of a more just sense of personal worth and one of a mutual apprecia-tion and good will to and for both races alike!

## Hot Pot Shots Milton Bledsoe

*The Call Kansas City Mo.*

Who is the "better-thinking Negro?" Or is there any such animal as such. If so, he or she is one of the permanent obsta-cles in the progress of black peo-ple in this country. Too often the Negro classified under this head- ing is construed as being a pro-fessional, doctor or lawyer, tea-cher, one in government service or any one holding a job two jumps ahead of the domestic or laborer.

Or as Zora Neale Hurston going fitly describes the "better think-ing Negro" as one of the fur coat peerage set. All of which is, to some extent unfair to those of the professional group as well as a source of misunderstanding to those who work on unskilled and in ordinary labor jobs.

If we were asked to give our definition of the better-thinking Negro it would be one who has pride in himself, his race, is law-abiding and who is interested not only in himself but in his fel-low-man, regardless of his rat-ing. There would be many Ne-

are in every branch of the army, air corps, infantry, artillery, calvary, engineers, armoured forces, quartermasters, and sig-nal corps. Then too, they are now accepted as seamen in the naval reserve, and given duties which include service on mine sweepers, tankers, and in shore establishments. Our Negro troops of today are really mak-ing a record for themselves, which will not only equal the distinguished records made by those of the previous World war, but will probably have them surpassed by a great mar-gin. Our only hope for victory in this war is to agree with Sgt. Joe Louis who says: "We'll win 'cause we're on God's side!"

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Aside from social grouping based on personal preferences there should be one common goal for all Negroes to seek—that of progress in this country and mutual cooperation with each other to attain that end. There should be and can be no artificial lines of demarcation as fur coats, lovely mansions, cars, college degrees and prominence of family if Negroes are to be come full-fledged citizens in America.

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## ADVANCEMENT OF NEGRO RACE

Noting the statement of President Roosevelt that the Negro natives of West Africa are almost as illiterate as they were centuries ago and live as primitively, William Philip Simms, foreign editor of the Scripps-Howard newspapers, declares that never in all history, in any country, has a people shown such tremendous advancement in so short a time as the colored race in America and condemns the efforts of some individuals and organizations to create dissension between whites and Negroes by appeals to racial prejudice.

Taking part in the attempts to stir up ill-feeling and trouble are both white and colored people, as Mr. Simms points out. "Some are doing it deliberately," he says, "knowing quite well what they are doing. Others, sincere and well-meaning, don't know what they are doing. They are merely misled." And that, at least, is taking the charitable view of the attitude of some of the agitators; probably we can give them the benefit of the doubt. But the harm they are doing may be fully as great as that caused by the activities and statements of those whose motives are evil. In either case, the appeals from these sources to the Negroes are without weight when viewed in the light of the progress of the colored people in this country in recent years and the latter will be well-advised if they consider that side of the picture rather than giving ear to those who would mislead them.

Figures presented by the Office of War Information in a recent publication are offered in support of the statement regarding the improvement in the Negro's position in the United States. It is shown, for instance, that the number of Negro clergymen increased from 12,159 in 1890 to 25,034 in 1930, while in the same period Negro teachers increased from 15,008 to 54,439. Other professions show greater gains, the following being reported: doctors, 208 to 3,805; dentists, 120 to 1,773; lawyers and judges, 431 to 1,247. Also it is revealed that there are 680,000 colored farm operators, 95 per cent of them in the South, and the same percentage of Farm Security loans went to Negroes as to white farmers.

Church property owned by Negroes today is valued at \$200,000,000 and there are about 100 colleges and universities belonging exclusively to the colored race. Negroes also own some 300 newspapers and periodicals, it is stated, and the number of students in their colleges has increased from less than 1,700 in 1916 to

40,000 in 1941.

All these figures help give an indication of what this country has done for its colored people and add proof to the contention of Mr. Simms and other thoughtful persons that we have here an unparalleled record of advancement. "That there is still plenty of room for improvement no informed person will deny," the writer says. "But it is equally undeniable that in no country on earth has a racial minority made such progress as have the 13,000,000 Negroes in the United States. Nor has this been any accident. It didn't just happen. It was the result of two things: First, the native intelligence of the Negro himself, and, second, the help of the white majority."

It has been a spirit of cooperation between the two races, in other words, that has brought about the accomplishments of the past in bettering the lot of the Negro and the further improvement we earnestly desire to see can be achieved in no other way. Any attempt to follow a different procedure could only end in injury to the cause of the colored man and make trouble for his white friends.—The Anniston Star

# Deep Changes In Thinking Bringing Dread To White South—Redding

Journal and Guide

Norfolk, Virginia—White South.

Deep changes in the mind of the Southern Negro extending over more than a decade is bringing dread to the white South, writes J. Saunders Redding in the March issue of The Atlantic magazine. His thesis is entitled, "A Negro Speaks For His People."

The article is considered an answer to the January writing in The Atlantic by Virginia Dabney of Richmond, Va., who warned America that the nation was drawing nearer and nearer the precipice of race riots because of the agitation of white demagogues and Negro extremists.

According to the editor of the magazine, "The Atlantic turns to J. Saunders Redding, author of one of the best books about the American Negro, 'No Day of Triumph,' to tell us what he thinks of the 'awakening' among his own people North and South."

Early Signs Not Clear

Mr. Redding points out in his piece that early warnings of the change in thinking of the Southern Negro was not clear to the

White South.

The replacement of an old Southern-trained Negro college teacher of sociology by a Negro trained at Chicago under Park Burgess; the boycott of a chain grocery store which employs an all-white staff in a colored neighborhood in Atlanta; and the establishment of bi-racial unions among tenant farmers in Louisiana and Missouri were enumerated as changes in thinking which were considered "minor" incidents. These signaled the onrush of the new leadership.

The old leadership of the South's Negroes had been chosen and maintained by the white South because it was too weak to make encroachments upon the basic assumption of Negro inferiority or upon the racial status quo, writes Mr. Redding.

Come And Story

As an example of the old leadership he cites a story from Edwin Embree's "Brown America," which tells of a high school principal who leaves his class when the county superintendent calls him

Meanwhile, in the North, Negroes were taking full advantage of opportunities offered by the growth of the New Deal, which political philosophy the writer termed a theory of leveling and reshaping the prerogatives of privileged men into the rights of all men.

Things which the Negro won — a Federal judgeship, county and municipal judgeships, government advisory posts, legislative seats, and appointments to West Point and Annapolis — were viewed as a clear promise that democracy for him was not dead.

The new leadership, North and South, was created according to Mr. Redding, from a complex of conditions arising in the South — the weakness of the old leaders, the inertia of those old leaders' white patrons, the labor activity along bi-racial lines, and the development of class-consciousness. A salient feature of the new leadership is its representativeness. The author listed four of the key figures in important groups. They were A. Phillip Randolph, whose railroad brotherhood has a membership of 10,000; Walter White, secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, with a membership well above 15,000 and 500 chapters; Max Yergan, president of the National Negro Congress, which claims 15,000 members; and Lester Granger, executive secretary of the National Urban League, which has affiliates in fifty cities.

But, says the writer, it becomes less the custom for Negroes in the South to accept that place, to grin and bear it; for though the majority have never head of the Northern Negro "agitators" of the "radical" Negro press, or the CIO, or Delta Cooperatives, or the Committee on Fair Employment Practice, they have heard that we are fighting a war for something and they have felt the cosmic stirring of the little peoples.

To such things as these the South has long been insulated writes the author. Resistance to change is one of its chief regional characteristics. Since change comes hard in the South, the South could not know, or chose not to know, what was happening in the North and to the Negro.

Such a leadership, he says, could not make the transition from one cultural level to those of another, and as a result the leadership has been outstripped.

A recent near-riot in Elizabeth City, N. C., seat of the Elizabeth City State Teachers College, was cited to stress his point of methods of control exercised over leaders and institutions.

The implication of guilty connivance was dismissed by Mr. Redding as a "hoax."

Distrusts Goodwill

The Negro has learned to distrust the proclaimed goodwill of the articulate Southern whites, even the "liberals," he has long since distrusted the strength of his old leaders, thinks the author.

The South is learning the lesson taught a few months ago by R. J. Thomas, president of the United Automobile Workers, when he ordered back to work under pain of expulsion from job and union some Southern whites who struck in protest against the employment of Negroes in a Wright aeronautical factory.

These lessons mean that the Negro is coming to have "a faith in organized labor as a force for

They Understood Not

Mr. Redding contends that such changes as symbolized in the Texas Primary election fight, the equal pay campaign, and the Supreme Court decision in the Gaines case were fought by the South because it did not under-

"Boy" Still With Us

It was still standard, he related.

He cited rallies by these men



which has drawn crowds of 20,000 in New York, 18,000 in Chicago, 7,000 in Baltimore, and hundreds in Boston, Richmond, Memphis, and New Orleans. None of the old leaders, he says, could claim any such followings.

## Durham Conference

The further scope of the new thinking, the change in thinking, of Negroes was pointed out in the action of a group of Southern Negro leaders who drew up a Race Relations Charter following a conference in Durham, N. C.

These Southern leaders met in a conference which the articulate whites hoped would provide an "antidote for the inflammatory agitation by Negro extremists."

The Journal and Guide, Norfolk newspaper which Mr. Redding calls "undoubtedly the South's own newspaper" and which he quoted white southerners as terming "one of the sanest and best edited colored papers in the United States," was quoted in The Atlantic article to illustrate the change in thinking of the Southern Negro, a thinking which Mr. Redding said was unthinkable ten years ago.

The editorial said:

"Up to this time the Southern Negro has not spoken in tones and terms that clearly defined his position. There is the assumption that the Southern Negro is leaving the case entirely in the hands of his Northern brethren.

"This is not true. In the current statement a representative group of Southern Negroes speak for themselves, and in clear terms they make it known that they are not in accord with any thinking concerning the war period, or the post-war period, that contemplates no change or improvement in the . . . second-class citizenship rating of the Negro."

Leaving the Journal and Guide editorial, the writer quotes directly from the charter which was given birth by Southern Negro leaders themselves. It read:

"We are fundamentally opposed to the principal and practice of compulsory segregation in our American society, whether of races, or classes or creeds; however, we regard it as both sensible and timely to address ourselves now to the current problems of racial discrimination and neglect and to ways in which we may cooperate in the advancement of programs aimed at the sound improvement of race relations within the democratic framework.

## No Road Back

In conclusion the writer viewed the global war, a war which says is for change, as a challenge to the South.

In its minimum meaning it is a challenge to the South to keep, if she must, the present facilities for bi-racial living, excepting only the dodges that prevent the Negroes' exercises of the ballot, drop the discriminatory practices that make those facilities for Negroes inferior to those for white, let the Negroes work at any job they can do, abolish compulsory segregation.

As for the future for Southern liberals Mr. Redding stressed his belief that there is no refuge in conservatism. There is no road back from liberalism except to a precipice. The road lies ahead, he said, and we built it. It is our right and our duty to lead the way along it.

## Author



J. Saunders Redding, author of one of the year's best non-fiction books, "No Day of Triumph," has written an answer to the January Atlantic magazine article by Virginius Dabney. The work is carried in the March issue of the periodical under the title, "A Negro Speaks for His People."

## Condition of Negro Is Better Declares Tuskegee

Survey Shows Being Given More Opportunities to Demonstrate Ability.

"Definite improvement is the condition of the negro people" is expressed in the 1941-1942 annual report just issued by President E. D. Patterson of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

son of Tuskegee Institute, Tuskegee, Ala.

"In my report of last year I discussed briefly some untoward conditions which I felt were handicapping the negro people in their effort to measure up to the full responsibilities of citizenship.

"I am happy that I can now report a definite improvement in these conditions with a fuller utilization of the man power in the negro group," he said, adding:

"Many defense industries are offering opportunities on skilled levels to negro artisans. Negro officers are being trained on an increasingly large scale, the standing number being 1,200 at the present time.

"The air corps has not only opened flying to negro youth, but has also made available a number of technical fields in connection with auxiliary activities such as aviation mechanics, signal corps work, radio engineering and interceptor commands.

"Admittedly many areas are yet closed. It is significant that the erasure of prescriptions is on the increase, and that the opportunities already afforded have given new impetus and hope to the educational and training efforts of negro youth.

"It is hoped that the gains made will reveal more fully to the nation the stultifying effect of denying opportunity to one-tenth of its population on the basis of race; and that it will also come to realize the important contribution which this tenth may make when it is utilized to the full.

"The high percentage of negroes turned down by draft boards throughout the south, because of illiteracy and disease is a graphic illustration of the price of neglect of a segment of the population."

# RATTLING SKELETONS

BY JOSEPH D. BIBB

"PAINT UP" and "Clean Up" will be the themes and slogans of the American people as the seasons swing into spring. No domiciles within this favored land are more in need of cleaning, decorating and fumigating than the run-down shacks and dilapidated shambles wherein the colored people are compelled to abide. The dirty, filthy, vermin-infested, disease-laden domiciles we design to call our homes, cast reflections upon us as a race of people and the states and municipalities that tolerate them. Our unhygienic and unsanitary homes are rattling skeletons in our lives. The lack of daisical fashion in which we permit ourselves to exist lends strength and conviction to the arguments of our foes.

We are fully aware and cognizant of the character and quality of the inferior dwelling places and blighted neighborhoods where



Mr. Bibb

## NEGLECT CITED BY OUR ENEMIES

It is clearly understood by this scribe that we are neglected by health officers, ignored by public officials and compelled to accept these abominable facilities as our homes and castles, but we also know that we are not compelled to wallow in this filth and debris. It is very clear to any of us who peer into our living abodes that we are derelict in our duties to keep them reasonably clean, and that we are unmindful of the benefits of soap and water, brooms and dust cloths and good old fashioned elbow grease.

THE tragic tendency of colored

WHY do colored people tolerate such conditions? One might argue that the majority of our women have been employed as domestics by white people, some time in their lives and that they have had a glimpse into the spic and span of living quarters of more fortunate Americans. This argument would tend to offset the plea of ignorance. It might be contended that restrictions and proscriptions have dulled the spirit and energy of the unfortunate dark skin. The fact remains that they are for the most part mushing and wallowing in filth, dirt and disease apparently unconcerned and oblivious to hygiene and health.

## MUST SET OUR

## HOMES IN ORDER

Now that the American colored people are expressing themselves in strident voice demanding full participation in all phases of American life, it behooves them to set their homes and houses in order. They would do well in the crusade for all-round better conduct, to clean-up, paint-up and present themselves and their homes to the American people as concrete evidence of their fitness to share in the fuller existence, and life-abundance of the water, muscle and brain which move a multitude of woes from our doors. Now is the time to "Paint-Up and Clean-Up."

## Unsanitary, Filthy Homes Are Among the Reasons For Race's Slow Progress

Americans to neglect their own homes is one of the rattling skeletons in our closets. It is one of the most potent arguments that our enemies use to support restrictive covenants. Real estate operators contend that because of our shiftless habits that neighborhoods are run down and property is depreciated. They say that we demolish and defile good residences and are not culturally equipped to live in choice districts.

## TENANTS MAKE NO DEMANDS ON OWNERS

They draw hard and fast lines against an entire race of people because of certain flagrant offenses that we have winked at and have not ever given serious consideration to. These embarrassing and unconcealed skeletons must be removed if we are to secure full advantage of the battle that is now being waged on the front for democracy at home.

The colored people are content to continue in their "uplift" association. They further this condition. This writer is in no position to refute or affirm these assertions but he does know that soap and water would work miracles in cleaning in colored communities, many depressed areas. He does know that greasy stoves could be







member, nobody wastes ammunition on a harmless or weak entity.

Some weeks ago, we wrote that an individual or a group will be able to determine the degree of its progress by the force of the reaction it causes. Judging from the reaction that has been loosed in recent months against the Negro, his progress is definitely on the upgrade, and fast. He must not become afraid or lose courage.

Kansas City Call

Kansas City, Mo.

## Forgive Us Our Debts

**JAN 22 1943**  
Two years ago Kansas City made history by gathering on mass to demand work. A year ago, some work was gotten. This week comes the third effort, grinding down the workers though it pays a higher price. The white owners employed and the dropping of all bars so make more. The colored workers go that our unused man power may be added to the war effort. Three steps taken, and THEY HAVE ALL BEEN TAKEN UPWARD! **JAN 22 1943**

This newspaper cites these gains to encourage the community to keep on. To those who resent the insistence of Negroes, we suggest forbearance. Our people can do no less, now that democracy has touched them with its magic world.

and made their minds as well as their bodies free. In a land where presidents are born in log cabins and millionaires start with a pick and shovel, even the backward aspire!

Having said that Negroes' aspirations are natural, we add with equal truthfulness that resistance to their surge is natural. That is the fact which makes the race question surcharged with feeling. Both sides see only their own motives and their own difficulties of adjustment. It would be better to live and let live. By the same logic that Negroes say they are entitled to time in which to learn how to be on equality with the rest, they must give the other fellow time in which to learn to accept him on an equality. **JAN 22 1943**

The democratic principle is not a push button. It is a school whose lessons are all hard, whether they be ours who must learn to qualify, or our neighbors' who must learn to share.

In a world wide situation that has prevailed ever since the first man wrested food from his neighbor, each group

should have the good sense to see that this is a struggle in which the weaker as well as the stronger are building a new and better society, and that each should have patience with the other.

The plea of Negroes here in the United States is exactly like that of the hundred million persons who live between the Rio Grande River and Cape Horn. Our government has gone great lengths to convince their countries of its good neighborliness. Yet, in Bolivia, from which we get tin, it has not stopped the mine management from grinding down the workers though it pays a higher price. The white owners motion picture theaters, professional groups and other channels.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (AP) — The Office of War Information began distribution today of 2,000,000 rotogravure booklets to record, it said, "the achievements of Negro Americans in many fields and to recognize officially their important contributions to the fighting of the war."

The 72-page booklets, about the dimensions of a tabloid newspaper, are to be distributed through insurance companies, churches, schools and colleges, labor unions, motion picture theaters, professional groups and other channels.

**JAN 22 1943**  
The discussion of after-war reforms now going on in Britain, where the people are all of one blood, is another proof that different levels among men are not due to race prejudice as we Negroes think. Once we realize that, we are alone can make peace in a warring world.

Those of other races who explain their treatment of us in terms of race and color are also mistaken. The system kept the white worker in the steel mills 12 hours a day and 7 days a week. Slavery did no worse by the black man. That the white victim of exploitation escaped gives ground for hoping that we will too. The first step toward that will come when it is recognized that it is our condition and not our color that deserves attention. **JAN 22 1943**

That America sends its men and its money to war for liberty makes sense. But since there is liberty for none until there is liberty for all, Americans now serving the Chinese, the Arabs, the Javanese and the rest of the colored peoples of the East, will in time see that they should not withhold benefits from the underprivileged here at home. It takes time for Negroes to learn the skills and ways of free men. It takes time for white men to learn that democracy is not democracy unless it is shared with the neighbors. Progress and peace depend upon both parties to

should have the good sense to see that this is a struggle in which the weaker as well as the stronger are building a new and better society, and that each should have patience with the other.

shared with the neighbors. Progress and peace depend upon both parties to

quarrel, dropping their blind anger and looking the facts in the face.

Johnson City, Tenn. Chronicle

January 17, 1943

## Government Cites

## Negro Achievements

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (AP) — The Office of War Information began distribution today of 2,000,000 rotogravure booklets to record, it said, "the achievements of Negro Americans in many fields and to recognize officially their important contributions to the fighting of the war."

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January 21, 1943

# THIS MORNING

by JOHN TEMPLE GRAVES, II

"The proud shall be humbled, and the humble made proud..."

Proud New York is made humble by the war, and was never so proud. When it dims out each nightfall, America's metropolis gets a new dignity in the half-dark. It becomes a city of mystery and reserve, a capital such as those now tortured ones abroad were before the war. It is a different—and a nobler and more beautiful—New York, remote from the glittering and roaring and cheaper tinsels of other times. There is a cathedral quality about the vast Pennsylvania and Grand Central Stations in their night-long twilights. You have a tendency to lower your voice as you go to or from the trains. And over the whole city outside there is the note of a great campus at night, a strange softness and quiet except where some taxi smashup occurs. People picking their way gently on foot. People walking with dogs for protection against they know not what. People who have given up hurrying because it will no longer get them anywhere in a hurry.

But the new sociability and humility of New York result more basically, one knows, from the trouble which is making all men together, darkens the Bowery and takes something from driver and passenger alike in any given taxicab. A democracy which cities like Chicago have always had is coming to Manhattan Island—for the duration at any rate. Because of the war rules and the things the war takes away, it is not possible for the elegant and aloof places to be so elegant and aloof or to offer themselves in so many formidable trappings of distinction. Shabbiness and deficiency turn up in the very best restaurants and hotels. And everywhere, high and low, east side and west, there is the uniform, with the same eagled buttons for all who wear it, the same cause and country.

You can hear so often that the colored people must use the war to advance themselves because promises of advancement after the last war were not kept. This

trian or one of the bullies who beat their way without regard to the red lights at night, they seem eager for the company of other humans, the cheerfulness of other voices or the noise of their own. About two out of every three cars on the streets is a taxi. And that means plenty of taxis. Not once in much moving about the city last week was this writer made to wait.

The same worldwide circumstance which has given New York new pride has taken away an old one, the old pride which looked down a little on a nation, was sure of its best of everything, scornful of the simplicities and sentiments of provincials beyond the Hudson.

You notice the change in hotel clerks, subway guards and all those other monarchs of the passing masses who were wont to receive and pass with totalities of boredom and disdain. They are friendly now, treat you almost like an equal, are willing to converse and compare notes, indeed, like the taxi drivers, insist on it.

This results in part from the fact that so many of these people are new at their jobs. In the hotel at which this writer stayed the personnel had been changed three times in six months because of calls to war service. The elevator girls were too uncertain of themselves to feel superior to any of their passengers.

But the new sociability and humility of New York result more basically, one knows, from the trouble which is making all men together, darkens the Bowery and takes something from driver and passenger alike in any given taxicab. A democracy which cities like Chicago have always had is coming to Manhattan Island—for the duration at any rate. Because of the war rules and the things the war takes away, it is not possible for the elegant and aloof places to be so elegant and aloof or to offer themselves in so many formidable trappings of distinction. Shabbiness and deficiency turn up in the very best restaurants and hotels. And everywhere, high and low, east side and west, there is the uniform, with the same eagled buttons for all who wear it, the same cause and country.

You can hear so often that the colored people must use the war to advance themselves because promises of advancement after the last war were not kept. This

writer undertook to examine this contention for the purposes of an address to the Southern Education Foundation in Philadelphia last Friday evening—and was able to report a very considerable advancement for the Negro between the last World War and this one. The annual death rate among Negroes was 25 per 1,000 in 1917. Today it is 14. Life expectancy among Negroes in the period between 1930 and 1940 increased twice as much as among whites. The tuberculosis death rate among Negroes was 235 per 10,000 in 1929, had been reduced to 129 by 1930. Illiteracy among Negroes in 1910 amounted to 30 per cent, today is only 8 per cent. Lynchings, of which there were 64 in 1918, are rare almost non-existence now.

It gives the Editor pleasure to note the rise in the world of any worthy young man, white or black, especially when the advancement does not give them "the big head." Eugene is the same quiet and unassuming boy he has always been. Friends of both races welcomed him home.

Eugene deserves much credit for the way he has conducted himself. He came up to "hard road." Born of poor parents, he had to hustle for himself. As a young boy, he blacked shoes on the street, saved his pennies and nickels and after attending the local school enrolled in a well-known negro college, working his way home.

**WORTHY NEGRO VISITS HOME**  
Among the negro soldiers here on a visit last week, was Eugene Calvin Dempsy, son of Paul Dempsy and wife. Eugene is now a member of U. S. forces, and is located in Carlisle Barracks, Pa., and says he likes army life well. He was all dolled up in a



# Seven Colored Nations Invited To Food Confab

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 15—(ANP)—

At least seven countries administered by Negroes or having large Negro populations have been invited to attend the United Nations Food conference, scheduled for April 27, three of which have already notified the State Department of their acceptance.

Panama, Brazil and the Dominican Republic and Liberia are nations which definitely will be represented. Word has not yet been received from Haiti, Ethiopia and Cuba, although it is likely that all will send delegations or authorize their local embassies and ministries to act for them.

There has been considerable speculation as to the possible location for the conference. Washington has been ruled out. Best bets indicate that Hot Springs, Va., will be the place. There is also some indication that the date may be moved back a few days to permit the delegations from some nations to arrive at the conference on time.

New York, N. Y.  
**THE BRIGHTER SIDE**

ALTHOUGH there are many clouds on the horizon of the progress of the Negro during this global war, there are still many favorable indications which point that the race is on its way to receiving those things which are its due.

Much gratification is to be found in the naming of Captain Adrian Richardson to head the crew of the recently-launched Liberty freighter, Frederick Douglass.

The Frederick Douglass is the third Liberty ship whose name honors an outstanding American Negro. Captain Richardson is the second member of the race to assume such a command.

Interviewed in New York several days ago, John B. Clark young Naval ensign who has been assigned as the Frederick Douglass' third mate had a statement to make which is typical of the spirit of the fighting heroes of the Maritime Service.

"I am going to do my best to carry out my task 100 per cent. We have two Negro captains now. They are both great men and will bring glory to the Negro people," Clark stated.

"Many more Negroes are capable and competent officers. The Negro people have suffered the lash of discrimination and chances of this kind will help to spread democracy in the United States."

It is men like Hugh Mulzac, skipper of the Booker T. Washington; Adrian Richardson and John Clark who significantly symbolize the role of the Negro in this war. They are equipped with all the necessary qualifications to do a job which for a long time has been denied men of their color.

The Negro people are confident that their records will prove that no mistake was made in their choice and that thus many new lanes of accomplishment will be opened to the race not only for the duration, but also in the post-war period.

**ROGERS SAYS:**  
Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier  
BY J. A. ROGERS

RECENT events give more than a hint that the Negro's fight for equality is beginning to bear fruit and that if he continues with unwearied vigor things will get more and more into the shape he wants them.

For instance, there is President Barclay's reception in Washington and other parts of this country. How different it was from the last visit of a Liberian chief executive to this nation! Woodrow Wilson, then President, "happened" to be out of Washington though he knew that President King was coming and King was just received as another black man in a prejudiced Washington. Remember, too, how when Haile Selassie's delegation from Ethiopia, headed by Ras Tafari, arrived in New York in the late 1920's, its members were refused accommodation because of color at the Waldorf-Astoria. This, it is safe to say, would not happen today.



Mr. Rogers

Another event significant in interracial unity was the Negro Freedom rally in Madison Square Garden recently at which no less than a third of the 25,000 present was white. Rev. Thomas Harten, one of the speakers, called it "the greatest coming together of Negroes and whites under Negro sponsorship since God placed Adam

**SOME SIGN-POSTS ON PROGRESS ROAD**

Among other signs of progress

Many Sign Posts Show  
The Negro Is Gaining  
His Fight for Equality

The same was true of the pageant, "For This We Fight," by Langston Hughes. Starting with Crispus Attucks and coming down to our day, and starring Paul Robeson, Duke Ellington and Canada Lee, it was the finest and most comprehensive pageant on Negro life and history I have ever seen, and received tremendous applause. As for the white actors they were as convincing as the Negro ones in their stand against jim crow. One very striking scene was in an induction camp in which a number of Negro and white draftees had just arrived in a body. When the receiving sergeant started to separate them into white and colored groups, the Negroes protested vigorously, and the whites backed them up as vigorously, wanting to know why, since they had gone to the same school and studied in the same class, they cannot serve in the same companies together now to defeat their common enemy, Hitler.

I MENTIONED the decision of the War Labor Board on equality of pay for Negroes written by Dr. Graham. This is so fine that, lest it be missed elsewhere, I am giving some excerpts from it:

"Economic and political discrimination on account of race or creed is in line with the Nazi program. America, in the days of its infant weakness the haven of heretics and the oppressed of all races, must not in the days of its power become the stronghold of bigots. . . .

"There is no more loyal group of our fellow-citizens than the American Negroes, North and South. In defense of America from attack from without, they spring to arms in the spirit of Dorie Miller of Texas, the Negro messboy, who, when the machine-gunner on the Arizona was killed, jumped to his place and fired the last rounds as the ship was sinking in Pearl Harbor.

"It is the acknowledged fact that in spite of all the handicaps of slavery and discrimination, the Negro in America has compressed more progress in the shortest time than any race in human history. Slavery gave the Negro his Christianity. Christianity gave the Negro his freedom. This freedom must give the Negro equal rights to home and health, education and citizenship, and an equal opportunity to work and fight for our common country.

"Whether as vigorous fighting men or for production of food and munitions, America needs the Negro; the Negro needs the equal opportunity to work and fight. The Negro is necessary for winning the war, and, at the same time, is a test of our sincerity in the cause for which we are fighting. . . .

Yes, there is every reason for the Negro to keep up the fight for freedom, and for those who have been merely standing by to join in.

THIS decision which was unanimous and was written by Dr. Frank Graham, white, public member of the board, and president of the University of North Carolina, is one of the finest and most broadminded on race relations ever uttered in this country at any time.

Another event significant in interracial unity was the Negro Freedom rally in Madison Square Garden recently at which no less than a third of the 25,000 present was white. Rev. Thomas Harten, one of the speakers, called it "the greatest coming together of Negroes and whites under Negro sponsorship since God placed Adam

**A SIGNIFICANT PAGEANT**



# Unparalleled Progress Of Negro Is Reviewed; Education Facts Cited

Publisher of The Free Press Outlines Progress and  
Contrasts It With What Advocates of Force Of-  
fer—Uninformed From North Give Advice That  
Does No Good—20 Years Educational Progress

JUN 26 1943

(By GALT BRAXTON,

Editor, Kinston (N. C.) Daily Free Press)

The global war in which we are engaged is creating many complex and vexing problems pertaining to the social welfare, economic status, and religion of the peoples of the world. The great countries, fighting under the banner of a problem today because of the United Nations, profess of the large migration of negroes to fight and shed their blood to industrial centers of other sections where the white people are not informed and therefore are to pursue their time-honored customs and habits of race orgently with the problems that are nationality, and, so far as possible, to enjoy equal opportunities. In the first place, the negroes, who migrate from the South to the North and other sections in large numbers, find past ten years under the label of "New Dealism," minority groups have not only been given opportunities, which they have never enjoyed before, some of which unquestionably they deserve, but some have been given the hope of achievement, which was not justified and which could not be realized without jeopardizing the progress of others. In the history of the present moment, we are chiefly concerned with the welfare and progress of the negro citizens in this country. We fear of the uninformed theorists of the that some of them, as well as their misguided friends, have visualized too much and too sudden progress and growth in their enjoyment of comparative opportunities and have overlooked the substantial—slow at times—but nevertheless progressive—accomplishments and achievements which the negroes of this country have made in the past 20 years, since Appomattox.

In the United States during the past ten years under the label of "New Dealism," minority groups have not only been given opportunities, which they have never enjoyed before, some of which unquestionably they deserve, but some have been given the hope of achievement, which was not justified and which could not be realized without jeopardizing the progress of others. In the history of the present moment, we are chiefly concerned with the welfare and progress of the negro citizens in this country. We fear of the uninformed theorists of the that some of them, as well as their misguided friends, have visualized too much and too sudden progress and growth in their enjoyment of comparative opportunities and have overlooked the substantial—slow at times—but nevertheless progressive—accomplishments and achievements which the negroes of this country have made in the past 20 years, since Appomattox.

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## Advice From Uninformed

For generations, we of the South have become accustomed to advice from well-meaning but uninformed zealots of the North and other sections, where the negro has not been so well known. These have volunteered their unsolicited advice on how to solve the alleged race problems of the South. For generations, we of the South have become accustomed to advice from well-meaning but uninformed zealots of the North and other sections, where the negro has not been so well known. These have volunteered their unsolicited advice on how to solve the alleged race problems of the South.

## Advocate Fighting

We hear from our advisers in the North that leaders of the negro race are not content with the progress which has been made in the past and that they will advocate "fighting for their rights." A few weeks ago, when riding on a crowded bus, we over-

erheard a negro soldier who was talking to a negro woman two or three seats back of where we were, make the statement, in substance, that the next war would be between the white and black people. A foolish idea. Indeed this is dangerous doctrine. If the negroes of this country should yield to any such unwise advice they would achieve nothing, but perhaps a set-back of from 50 to 100 years in their progress, educationally and economically.

## Education Progress

We have been examining the records here in North Carolina of the educational progress that the negroes have made in this State in state-supported schools and colleges during the past two decades. Indeed it is an eloquent story of accomplishment and progress.

Space does not permit even touching anything but the high spots. We wish we could give not only some comparative statistics of the educational progress, but of the economic progress that the negroes have made in North Carolina, but we will have to forego such inclinations. Their educational progress, of course, is basic and is indicative. We believe North Carolina's picture is a fair example and cross-section of what is going on in the South generally.

We will not undertake to cover the range of the elementary schools. Suffice it to say that the comparative advantages and opportunities offered negro children in North Carolina in the elementary grades compare most favorably with the opportunities afforded white children, and the differentials are being gradually eliminated. The comparative figures in the high schools and colleges in the State, devoted to negro education, are an impressive indices, we believe, of the educational progress which the negroes in North Carolina have made, because a benevolent State has striven to give them fair and adequate opportunities. We have just touched the high spots.

The people of the South do not contend that negroes have always been happy and unquestionably there have been gross racial discriminations in the past, but the best people in the South have not approved of such discriminations. They have stood firmly for a square deal and for justice, and their position has borne fruit. They do not advocate or approve of social equality; (By this we mean social intermingling, and intermarrying, which is legally banned in the South)—and they will not do so. The negroes have enjoyed the advantages of the South's culture and civilization, not because he

has fought for them, but because of the inherent sense of justice and righteousness permeating the hearts of the best people of the white race of the South. The negro will continue to improve his educational, economic and moral conditions only if he is content to add these benefits gradually and not undertake to precipitate them by "fighting" and if he continues to recognize the representative white people of the South as his best friends.

## Worst Enemy

The worst possible enemy that the negro can have is the advocate of force and belligerency, or in other words, those who urge him to "fight for his rights." It makes no difference whether such advocate is white or black. Booker Washington, founder and for many years president of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, gave his fellow negroes wholesome advice. He urged them to live peaceably, to be honest in their dealings, industrious and energetic, to save of their earnings and buy homes and to stay out of politics. His successor at Tuskegee, Robert R. Moton, continued that same teaching, and we believe the present president, F. D. Patterson, is doing likewise. The outstanding leaders of both white and negro races in the South, without exception, recognize no race problem, which cannot be solved by a continuance of the synthetic relations between the races, which have existed in the South and to which full credit must be given for the progress the negro has made.

## Facts in Figures

In figures, which we have gotten from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, we find the following interesting facts:

	1923-24	1930-31	1941-42
Enrollment in Negro high schools	4,715	16,817	43,208
Number of high school graduates	380	1,906	4,717
Percentage of students in high schools to total enrollment	2.3	6.7	14
Libraries (School)	0	149	159
Total circulation in school libraries	0	82,584	450,883
Number of pupils transported to schools by publicly operated buses (This includes both elementary and high school pupils.)	0	5,086	45,583

## NEGRO COLLEGES

	1921-22	1930-31	1941-42
Total enrollment	118	2,631	5,406
College graduates	57	516	1,184

## HIGH SCHOOLS

	1914-15	1924-25	1938-39
Number of accredited high schools	0	43	158
Length of school term	113.5	135	163.6
days		days	days

Courier-Journal  
Louisville, Ky.  
No Longer One Type

To the Editor of The Courier-Journal.

The white element in our population should digest the fact that one out of every ten citizens in these United States is a Negro. Furthermore they should learn that in the three quarters of a century since the Civil War, the Negro has changed greatly because of educational opportunities the white population has provided often with more reluctance than grace.

In this change in the colored man from a wholly agricultural type of labor with a common denominator of illiteracy to a group that includes many trained professional men and skilled technicians and men who have prospered as owners of their own business, the white population has been too slow to drop the patronizing air toward the Negro so common as to have been almost universal a generation ago. Now it acts as a decided irritant to the better educated and more capable Negro. The Negro is here among us to stay and the real wonder is that any race could have come so far since release from slavery with discrimination acting as a braking force against his progress.

Serious trouble is in the offing unless we give credit to that colored people who are making ample progress toward a more important place in our political and industrial life. C. C. C. Louisville.



**The Pet Collie Becomes a Sheep  
Killer If He Runs With That  
Constitution  
and Pack**

By ROBERT O'HILLEN

Atlanta, Georgia

Eighty years ago, the colored people of America were slaves, many of them born in the dark forests of Africa. Today there are thousands who are college graduates and tens of thousands who have graduated from accredited high schools. They have won success in business and in every profession.

How could it happen? Were they superior, or able to learn more quickly? No, they had an enormous advantage. The white race had to blaze a new trail up the mountain; learning by trial and error; growing and building slowly as they climbed. But when the colored people were set free, they inherited the right to share and absorb a ready-built civilization and live in the environment of a matured culture. Nobody handed them anything on a silver platter. They had to earn all they got. But the fact is that the race made phenomenal progress in a few years because of the environment it inherited with freedom.

Many white people had a somewhat similar experience. Thousands of poor peasants from the most backward countries of Europe came to America a century ago. The grandchildren of the neighbors who remained in the old country still live and act and think much as the old-timers did. They have made almost no progress. But those who came to America, to share the freedom and opportunity of this environment, soon developed into "typical Americans" and gave this land some of its best and sturdiest stock. Some of their grandchildren are leading scientists, governors—and college football heroes.

The rule works both ways, of course, and thus not only explains most of our social ills but suggests the obvious cure.

The state, or society, or civilization can best serve itself by developing good citizens, and the surest way to develop good citizens is not by precept and admonition, but by providing a decent and inspiring environment. For we learn only by absorption and example, and each of us is a product of the atmosphere he has lived in.

The slum district we loathe is our factory, in which we are making future Americans.

## LOOKING BACKWARD

Ere this issue of the Argus reaches some of its readers the year 1943 will have become history. ARGUS

Looking backward we view the paths over which we have come during the year with a deal of concern, because never in the history of mankind has the people of the world gone through such a devastating war as is now encompassing the globe. This year has seen the bringing into action every weapon for destruction of life known to man, and still a sad note to be heard again and again is "the end is not yet in sight." Not a living soul, including the Big Three at Cairo and the Big Four at Teheran, would stake his all on a bet as to just when this present war will end. The cost in money materials, lives and casualties to this nation has already reached a point beyond all contemplation.

Thank Heaven! While the end is not in sight, victory to our armed forces is sure. However, despite the fact that the overall picture is still gloomy, the gods of fortune have so played the game that the colored people and the underprivileged of America, and the darker races of the world are getting a hearing before the bar of public opinion. Many have been the changes in human affairs during the year 1943. The signs of a new world are being flashed before our eyes daily. We have found ourselves fighting "over here" as well as over

there. On the home front we find ourselves fighting our arch enemy, RACE PREJUDICE, which is ever present to rob us of our constitutional rights as citizens. Whether we have gained anything or whether we have lost anything in our pursuit of democracy is still a debatable question, among some of our leaders. St. Louis, Missouri

From a national standpoint, it looks as though, as a race, we have made some gains in the field of industry. With the aid of the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice, we have been able to force the heretofore closed doors to the extent that we are gainfully employed in places where race prejudice thought it had us barred forever. We regard the gains in employment made possible by the FEPC as the MAJOR accomplishment along racial lines during 1943. We make this citation because we regard ninety per cent of our racial ills as being economic. Let the Negro work without discrimination, and let him serve in public places without prejudice as to salary, etc., and it will only be a short time until he will be able to overcome the other impediments which hold him back.

In Missouri this year, Miss Emma Jane Lee of Festus, won in the federal district court a suit to equalize the colored teachers' pay at Festus, Mo. Representative Edwin F. Kensil, the first Negro to sit on the Democratic side of the House of Representatives of Missouri, introduced a Civil Rights bill, but the said bill did not receive a favorable report from the Judiciary committee. Mr. Kenswil says "The colored people themselves did not support the measure as they should." It is also said by others that Negro Republican leaders gave insincere support because Kenswil was a Democrat and therefore they did not want the Democrats to have the honor of passing a Civil Rights Bill in this state.

In the meanwhile, what is regarded as a real gain for the race in St. Louis is the election of Rev. J. C. Caston as a member of the Board of Aldermen of this city. He is the first member of his group to become a member of the city's lawmaking body. He is a Republican, pastor of Memorial Baptist church and was elected from the Sixth Ward. Rev. Caston is now in a position to sponsor a much needed bill to eliminate discrimination in the use of city-owned property.

The State of Missouri is in the making of a new constitution to take the place of the now twenty-five-year-old document. A group of patriotic citizens, both white and colored believe that some additions and some extractions relative to the Negro citizens should be made. To this end, Messrs. Jacob L. Babler, Republican, and Richard J. Fitzgibbon, Democrat, members of the Constitutional Convention from St. Louis, are jointly sponsoring articles to be a part of the new constitution, one touching separate schools and equal pay for Negro teachers with equal qualifications and the other touching the civil rights of the Negroes as citizens of this state. The success of both of these measures depends not only upon the sponsors, but to a large degree upon the part the colored people themselves play.

Following the outbursts of race riots in several cities, Mayor Alroy Kaufmann of St. Louis appointed a commission on race relations, the purpose of which is to work in an organized way to cultivate the spirit of good will between the races in this city to the end that St. Louis be and remain free from the wicked racial conflicts which have resulted in bloodshed and death to the innocent in other sections of the country.

This committee is now at work under the leadership of Edwin B. Meissner, and much good is expected to be accomplished. It has often happened before—and the year 1943 may not prove to be different in this regard—that some event which has passed unnoticed at the time may prove to have been the

The abolishment of segregation in the cafeteria of the local post office after a long fight is a victory of which the Al-broader horizon and a better day. It is the hope of The St. Louis Argus that some event which has taken place in the his-

The local committee of the March on Washington takes toric year of 1943 will mark the turn in the road toward better the credit of leading the fight which resulted in the South-things for the Negro in the United States.

# Facts and Figures

employment with the telephone company has not been accomplished, but regards the segregated office as a start.

All and all—Looking Backward over the year 1943—we

can note only a few major accomplishments and this brief review is only a reminder.

Our gains in the nation's armed forces have been disappointing, because we reason in our own mind that any man who is required to die for his country is good enough to enjoy all the rights, privileges and advantages that other soldiers enjoy. Your country enjoy.

your children, we make your bread, we wash your clothes, we sweep your floors, we dig your ditches. Of the economic trio, land, labor and capital, you furnish the labor and pay the rent and interest. He frequently called attention to the fact that "without strikes and labor wars, we have killed your fields, cleared your forests, builded your railroads and cities, and brought forth treasures from the

*Facts and Figures*  
*Information for Teachers*  
when speaking to the audience: **NOV 20 1943**

western Bell Telephone Company setting up an office to be staffed by colored people. The committee, under the leadership of Theodore McNeal, says that its object respecting employment with the telephone company has not been accomplished, but regards the segregated office as a start.

All and all—Looking Backward over the year 1943—we can note only a few major accomplishments and this brief review is only a reminder.

**Our gains in the nation's armed forces have been disappointing, because we reason in our own mind that any man who is required to die for his country is good enough to enjoy all the rights, privileges and advantages that other soldiers of our country enjoy.**







wells of the earth," thus making possible the splendid progress of the South since 1865.

But the last quarter of a century has brought many changes into the world which Booker T. Washington knew. Electrical appliances and diffusion of industrial education, but more than these, the rise of the concept of the dignity of labor have served to lessen the dependence of the majority group upon the minority group in the matter of domestic service, while the mechanization of industry has replaced thousands of common laborers by a few operators. Moreover, this very economic interdependence has threatened the friendly relations of the races in the South, as in other parts of our country, for investigation shows that many major inter-racial clashes have their bases in deep-seated economic prejudices. For instance, the refusal of workmen to continue on jobs into which Negroes are inducted for the first time.

Alarmed by the first great exodus of Negroes to the North in 1879, Frederick Douglass, along with many other orators insisted that the Negro was an absolute necessity in the South, that he had a monopoly of the labor market. The rise of labor unions which excluded Negroes and the changes which converted the South from a one-crop-cotton agricultural country to a many-sided industrial country and the periodic importation of foreign labor have long since belied Mr. Douglass's declaration.

Although the simple relationship which Booker T. Washington expounded no longer exists, it is true that here in Houston where Negroes number 103,000 and constitute 22.4% of the total population of the 47,687 persons employed in gainful peace time occupations, exclusive of the several thousand working in war plants, 16,507 are doing domestic service. The others are distributed thus:

Common and unreported, 10,291; Other Services, not domestic, 8,416; Craftsmen, Operatives, 8,187; Proprietors, Managers, clerical, 1,725; Farmers, farm laborers, etc., 1,298; Professional and semi-professional, 1,263.

Some of the questions which come to mind in a discussion of this kind are:

Where does the Houston Negro earn his money?

Where does he spend his money?

What are his housing conditions?

Is his relief load declining?

What is he doing towards building economic security for the future?

The figures just read indicate in a general way the sort of work which he does, the following state more specifically where: According to figures released by the Houston Negro Chamber of Commerce

and the Negro Labor News, the S. R. R. employs above 1000 Negroes; the M. P. R. R. above 400; on file for quarters in these two Hughes Tool company between projects. Moreover, over half of the persons who seek assistance from our many welfare agencies live in sub-standard houses. The problem of inadequate housing is aggravated by improper drainage and waste disposal.

For our fourth question there is a pleasing answer. The relief load for Negroes is on the decline. For some time now, public assistance has been given largely to unemployed — the aged, dependent children, and physically handicapped. The "All Out For War" effort has reclaimed for work many old pensioners, also many crippled and blind. The high pay to work largely in laundries where wages range from \$10 to \$22. The almost higher standard of living for children but here we are faced with the problem of foster day care for these children.

Finally, what is the Houston Negro doing toward building economic security for the future?

1. Home ownership tends in the direction.

2. He has one-half million dollars deposited in 13 banks.

3. Negroes bought \$100,000 as war bonds in the third War Bond Drive. This means purchases in dependent of corporations and other average employers.

4. There are 4 insurance companies with \$145,000 capital and others with \$375,000 capital having home offices elsewhere.

There are 275 postal employees averaging \$175 per month.

Four weekly newspapers employ a goodly number of persons.

S. P. men belong to A. F. of L., and also have an Independent Union; M. P. men belong to low-A. F. of L.; Hughes Tool men belong to CIO and have an Independent Union. Longshoremen belong to the International Union of A. F. of L.

In conclusion, I would like to mention some needs but have time for only one. Negroes need small sums of money loaned at low rates of interest. They are victims of garden's and the corner neighborhood grocers.

Forced by law to provide for his own places of eating, the Houston Negro has 89 cafeterias, about as they have dwelt on the poverty of the Negro — They tell us that he was turned loose and naked to the open sky without food, without land, without money, or friends, he with his children, his sick, his operators. Another 412 pictures the poverty of the South — It adds to the picture of the penniless Negro, the master whose inner wealth was measured in the slaves which he had posed to the trend of thought. I who put his money where his faith hardly knew what it was that influenced me to follow it unless it was to know the other side's point of view. I am deeply distrustful of anything of Southern origin, being fully acquainted with the Southern way of life.

He says: "I have found your column extremely interesting despite that I am unalterably opposed to the trend of thought. I was to know the other side's point of view. I am deeply distrustful of anything of Southern origin, being fully acquainted with the Southern way of life."

IT WAS your scathing denunciation of Mr. Pickens' 'crucifixion' that prompted me to write this letter. While I am nauseated

separably linked in days of plenty and in days of want.

# SOUTHERN SAY-SO

Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

## Conservative and Radical Elements Deserve Credit for Negro Progress

BY M. S. STUART

BEFORE reproducing some excerpts from a letter received from a young Negro soldier, it is believed proper

to first state the reasons why this columnist is prompted to bestow upon this one, attention not possible to accord the several others received. Among other reasons, the following:



Mr. Stuart

- It daringly and intelligently expresses a divergence of opinion — a rare reaction of race people.
- The sentiments expressed represent a definite school of Negro thought—a particular element of the race.
- It brings into focus in characteristic style the clashing of the opinions of youth with those of maturity.
- It raises the question, What more is youth going to do, what more can it do, about the position of the Negro in the American scheme of things than the generations of the race during the past half-century have done or tried to do?

The author of the letter mentioned shall here be known merely as The Young Soldier. He is 24. Has had college training. Is in the Cavalry. Has tried to be all that any American should be.

### DESERVING OF APPRECIATION

He says: "I have found your column extremely interesting despite that I am unalterably opposed to the trend of thought. I was to know the other side's point of view. I am deeply distrustful of anything of Southern origin, being fully acquainted with the Southern way of life."

IT WAS your scathing denunciation of Mr. Pickens' 'crucifixion' that prompted me to write this letter. While I am nauseated

and bitter as a result of some of the experiences that I have had to undergo, I don't consider my character warped or my viewpoint revolutionary. But I am contemptuous of the conservatism behind which Negroes of your brand hide. People who want to wait 100 years for something that is accorded the emigrant as soon as he sets foot on our shores. People who still have faith that the educational processes will solve our social and economic problems.

### BOTH GROUPS OPPOSE RACE OBSTRUCTORS

"You said that Mr. Pickens' conversion was the most significant victory of the decade for the conservative element. I am convinced it was a calamity of gross proportions. Radicals may be unpopular, but they get things done. Your position is strikingly similar to that of Dr. DuBois during the last war. The term conservative Negro has come to mean 'chicken hearted Negro.' Only bitter, determined action will save us."

ALL right, Sonny. Your statement is backwards. Radicals get in the limelight of popularity. Conservatives get things done. As regards the interest and future of the race radical and conservative Negroes are much the same, except in methods. They want the same thing. Trying to go the same place. A conservative Negro is a radical who has grown ripe—and practical. Both are at heart for the full, legal rights of the race. Both are opposing race obstructors. One is attacking the left wing, the other the right.

### RENOWNED LEADERS ARE REALISTS

Age and experience make people more matter-of-fact. More inclined to actually getting results. Less concerned with the sentimentalities involved in accomplishing them. Realists—not conservatives—is the better term.

IT IS the people produced who matter—not inanimate things—in every race and nation. Who are the big people the Negro race in America has produced? From what school of thought did they come and follow? Towering above all, symbol of conservatism, the beloved Dr. Booker T. Washington. Then Mrs. Mary Bethune, the acme of common sense and accomplishments. Now Joe Louis, a cotton patch conservative. No one will ever be able to measure the good he and his level headed, always discrete, management have accomplished. Who was more practical, humble and co-operative with the white people of his contacts than the late Dr. Carver? Suppose these had resorted to "bitter" action? Would the race be better off?

### SOME BIG, HARD FACTS

Now, Young Soldier, here are some big, hard facts. Try out "bitter, determined action" on them and success to you, to wit:

- The Negro group in America is a minority.
- Many minorities are fluid and temporary, and may quickly be converted into majorities.
- The Negro minority is very nearly a fixed minority. A Negro is a Negro down to the last drop.
- The first step, the strong-

est temptation to discrimination, to choice is identification, separation, difference. For long yet, all over the world, majorities will probably be tempted to "make differences" in identified minorities. How much by force of violence can a minority compel a majority to do?







over interracial tensions during 1913. There was much evidence of more acceptance and tolerance of Negro passengers in the various railroads. The integration of Negroes in OPA, NTS and other governmental agencies is noteworthy. Negroes have gone into many heretofore "white people's jobs."

There were two significant meetings of Texas educators in an effort to equalize educational opportunities for Negroes and whites. Messrs. Homer P. Rainey, T. O. Walton and L. A. Woods were co-sponsors and leaders in the effort. The School Teachers Association in East Texas met in an effort to equalize salaries of teachers in that section. The campaign for teachers pay equalization has now reached all of the 13 traditionally southern states. Salary adjustments were made in Dallas, Houston, Beaumont, Galveston, and New Orleans.

There were two significant meetings of Texas educators in an effort to equalize educational opportunities for Negroes and whites. Representatives of 44 United Nations including Haiti and Liberia signed an agreement (Nov. 9) creating the United Nations Relief Rehabilitation Administration. Messrs. Homer P. Rainey, T. O. Walton and L. A. Woods were co-sponsors and leaders in the effort. The School Teachers Association in East Texas met in an effort to equalize salaries of teachers in that region reported on activities of the squadron. These fliers flew over section. The campaign for teachers pay equalization has now reached enemy territory during 1943. Col. Davis has been assigned to Self-ed all of the 13 traditionally southern states. Salary adjustments ridge field. Ships were launched by Marian Anderson, Lena Horne and Mrs. were made in Dallas, Houston, Beaumont, Galveston, and New Orleans.

Maunna Harmon, the latter in memory of her son, the late Roy Harmon. Charlie Hall was promoted to the Captaincy for fine work in making Panteleoria. Major Charity Adams became the second colored major in the WACS.

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# CHICAGO NEGROES STILL LEAD NATION IN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BY J. A. ROGERS

**A YEAR** of **MARAGO** I have my impressions of the progress I found being made by the Negroes of Chicago, and now again on a recent visit, I saw several other evidences of the same. First, I met again my friend of an early thirty years' standing, Bill Dawson who was in the city on a flying visit. Dawson, as I knew him back in the 1910's and 1920's was ever a keen and persistent fighter for the rights of his racial group and it was a real joy to see him rewarded at last by being elected to Congress where he now speaks not only for Chicago but for the 13,000,000 Negroes of the United States. Again, there



presenting a new impression of the progress I found being made by the Negroes of Chicago, and now again on a recent visit, I saw several other evidences of the same. First, I met again my friend of an early thirty years' standing, Bill Dawson who was in the city on a flying visit. Dawson, as I knew him back in the 1910's and 1920's was ever a keen and persistent fighter for the rights of his racial group and it was a real joy to see him rewarded at last by being elected to Congress where he now speaks not only for Chicago but for the 13,000,000 Negroes of the United States. Again, there



**Mr. Rogers**

The Civic Opera House at which it was held was packed with music-lovers, colored and white, and was in every way a success. The music critics of the leading papers lavished praise on it. Before a high class audience

**NOVEL WAR BOND**

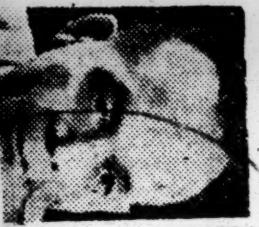
The promoters, the management, the artists and all who helped in the undertaking deserve high praise. It is to be hoped that the company will receive enough backing to take it to other

IN CHICAGO, I also learned of the success of the war bonds and stamps among Negroes by Negroes. The Treasury Department in its efforts to reach every one in the nation has organized a sales force in Chicago, which if successful will be adopted in other cities. The city is divided into ~~four~~ <sup>several</sup> districts, one of which is the South Side, or Negro one. Here the insurance companies, most of which are colored, have been organized with W. Ellis Stewart of the Supreme Liberty Life, as chairman, and Melvin McNairy of the Metropolitan Funeral System Assn., as sales director. Among the white companies participating are the South Side branches of the Metropolitan Life and the Missouri Insurance Companies. The eight branches meet downtown, where some of the chairmen are among the biggest white bankers of the city.

DISTRICT RISES  
TO 4th PLACE

I was told that there was some coldness at first on the part of some of the white bankers at receiving the Negroes as equals but this attitude soon changed because the Negroes went into the matter with such enthusiasm that although their division was the last to be organized, they have already risen from the eighth to the fourth place in sales.

THE white businessmen of the neighborhood have also joined in and together with the Negroes are financing the entire undertaking with not a penny of cost to the government, including full page ads in the newspapers for which they pay themselves. The white people





of the district, I was told, work very willingly under Mr. Stewart and Mr. McNairy, both of whom are colored.

### PROVES ABILITY TO DO A JOB

Mr. McNairy, with whom I talked, is assistant manager of the Metropolitan Funeral System Assn., and claims adjuster, and one of the most business-like, up-to-date, and likable men I have ever met. He is in charge of all the Treasury records and confidential reports for his district, thereby proving that he and his associates can be as efficient as white Americans when the powers that be become sufficiently enlightened to give capable Negroes a chance.

I ALSO attended the annual meeting of the National Negro Progress Assn., held in the auditorium of the DuSable High school, where prizes totalling hundreds of dollars were given for the best essays on Negro business.

### FIGHT BATTLES WITH OWN FUNDS

The president of the Association, Carl Hansberry, whose sketch appeared in "Your History" a few weeks ago, is one of the most persistent fighters for racial rights in America. So strongly does he believe in them that he is willing to pay out his own money to advance them. He and his wife, Mrs. N. Louise Hansberry, established the Hansberry Foundation fund for fighting civil rights and other cases, some of which have been taken successfully to the U. S. Supreme Court on behalf of other Negroes.

MR. HANSBERRY declares that any emancipation of the Negro to be real must be economic. His plan is to set up factories run by Negroes in various cities of the United States and sell to all consumers. While many big white firms will not employ Negroes they will not hesitate to stock up with Negro-made goods, provided such goods are up to quality. Furthermore, he says, that after the war there is going to be great demand for consumer goods and that Negroes should prepare now to get in on the tide.

### BOARD WOULD DIRECT WORK

"The main object of this Association," he says, "is the commercial and industrial development of Negro life in America, thus giving it a more solid, economic foundation. The Association plans call for the establishment of a fund of \$1,000,000 or more, which is to be administered by a Board of Trustees. In effect this board of trustees will constitute Negro America's planning board for Negro economic development. It will not be a profit-making enterprise but will operate solely to promote and develop business and business opportunities for our people."

THE secretary of the Association is J. J. Allen of New York and the publicity director, Nahum Daniel Brascher, veteran newspaperman.

## Let's Stop and Take Stock

New York, N. Y.

During these days of race tensions, it is important to all of us to stop and take stock of ourselves. Although there is plenty of confusion and strife on the home front as well as a world war overseas, in which two million white and Negro Americans are engaged, Negro Americans are making real and definite progress. They have made it in unheard of strides ever since the Civil War. **Amsterdam News**

This significant fact, which too many people are prone to forget or ignore during these troublous times, was pointed out in an address recently by Edwin R. Embree, president of the Rosenwald Fund. "The very fact that Negroes are in a position, not merely to ask for fair treatment, but to demand their rights, is an indication of a revolutionary change in their condition in this war as contrasted with the Civil War of 80 years ago," Mr. Embree said.

And this fact is important. One only has to think of the formerly free people of Europe and Asia now slaves of the Axis to realize the great importance of Mr. Embree's statement. For in America, although still denied all of the rights of citizenship granted him by the Constitution, the Negro is far better off than millions of men abroad. Furthermore, thousands of Negro men in America are far better off than many thousands of white men here in America.

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Of course, the Negro man has achieved his niche in this country, of which he is in every sense of the word a citizen, by his own efforts and those of his white brothers. Today, as Mr. Embree points out, there are 50,000 Negro men and women in college, three times as many as 12 years ago. The Negro death rate, although still higher than it need be with modern medicine and sanitation, has been cut in half during the past 50 years. Negroes have become a solid part of the labor movement. Their union enrollment today of 350,000 is five times that of 12 years ago. While still under-employed and kept for the most part in the lower posts, their surge into jobs of all kinds during the present war has given them new economic footholds, some of which they will certainly keep.

Migrations have brought one-fourth of the race to the North and the West where they have fuller rights and freer opportunities, Mr. Embree goes on. In public life, he says, Negroes are judges, national emissaries and are officers of almost every important Federal department and agency in Washington. They sit in legislatures of 12 states, and one sits in Congress.

In conclusion, the Rosenwald Fund head says: "In spite of present tensions and riots, the record of recent decades gives me faith that America is moving toward democracy."

We agree with Mr. Embree. We also hope that others will stop and think seriously about what he has said. He could have said much more, because the achievement of Negro Americans in the past 78 years is something that any people would be proud of. Only in the United States of America could we have made these achievements. This too, is something to think of seriously.

## Cultural Group Stresses Negro Art Contribution

New York, N. Y.

Peoples Voice

Outstanding leaders in American cultural life, called together at Edison Hall, 228 W 47 st, Sunday afternoon by Dr. Max Yergan, Howard Fast, Herman Shumlin and Fredi Washington, planned for a Committee for Democratic Culture to present, in an effective manner, the contributions of the Negro to American art and culture. Dr. Yergan Entertainment Committee served as chairman. **DEC 4-1943**

The specific outcome of the meeting was a proposed two-day conference to be held early in 1944 which would attempt to:

- popularize, through screen, radio, stage, art, literature, education and music, the democratic ideal of equality and brotherhood of all races;

- modify the traditional concepts now limiting the Negro to certain stereotyped roles, so that each may employ his talent in the medium to which he is best suited;

- coordinate the activities of existing organizations which are working to open more employment opportunities for Negroes in the entertainment industry and to eliminate racial barriers in the field of the arts;

- sponsor activities based upon the positive cultural contributions of the Negro people.

Speakers at Sunday's session included Gwendolyn Bennett, director, George Washington Carver School; Herman Shumlin, Hollywood Emergency Entertainment Committee; Peter Lyon, Radio Writers Guild; Charles White, League of American Artists; Horace Grennell, Music War Committee; Sheelagh Kennedy O'Malley, War Food Administration; Jack McManus, New York Newspaper Guild; Jonas Rosenfield, president, Hollywood Emergency Entertainment Committee; Henrietta Buckmaster, author of *Let My People Go*; Edward Strong, National Negro Congress.

These people, and Julius Feinberg, Local 802, American Federation of Musicians; Virginia Kaye, American Theatre Wing; Fredi Washington, PV Theatrical Editor

## Boston Mayor Worried, Fears Negro Progress

DEC 18 1943 Pittsburgh, Pa. Courier

BOSTON—(ANP)—The 39th annual session of the Massachusetts Conference of Social Work, which had gone on record voicing vigorous condemnation of Jim Crowism, was thrown into consternation by remarks of Mayor Maurice J. Tobin, of Boston, at its closing session. Tobin, who earlier was accepted as of record with a declaration that officer in the Allied Military government should be recognized "as a spiritual personality" set up to reorganize the conquered European territories, re-marked at the luncheon of the conference that the white race would be static or decrease in rate of birth, while the colored race would be constantly increasing. He further stated that inasmuch as the colored races were envious of the white race, the white races must protect and defend themselves against the encroachments of the colored race. **DEC 18 1943**

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